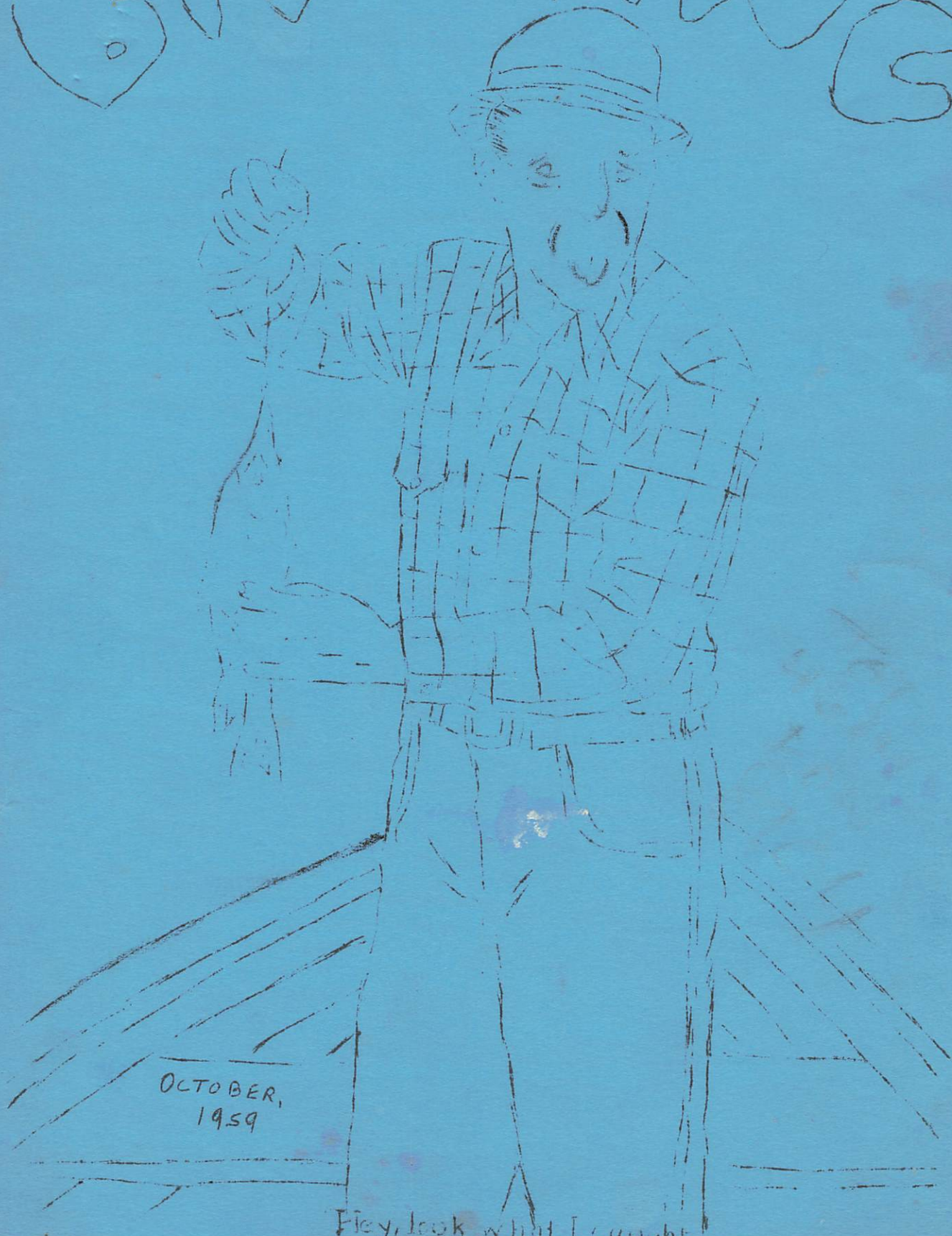
BINGANG



BINGANG BINGANG BINGANG

Vol. XIII No. 3 October, 1959

THE CLUB CROSBY PRESENTATION

Editor...Rena Albanesi, 128 Kimball Terrace, Yonkers 4, New York
Pen Pals...Pat Sullivan, 3134 North 53rd. Street, Milwaukee 16, Wisc.
Meet The Members...Mary Maloney, 586 Adams Avenue, Elizabeth, N. J.
West Coast Rep....Priscilla Koernig, 349 Banks Street, San Fran.,Calif.

Mimeo...Iris Cummiskey, R.F.D. #1 Greenbush Road, West Warwick, R.I.

Send all material for publication to the editor except when otherwise indicated

CLUB OFFICERS

HONORARY PRESIDENT - BING CROSBY

Honorary Vice-President...Larry Crosby, 9028 Sunset Blvd., Los Angeles 46, California
Active President...Rena Albanesi, 128 Kimball Terrace, Yonkers 4, N.Y.
Active Vice-President...Mary Maloney, 586 Adams Avenue, Elizabeth, N.J.

BRANCH LEADERS

Austria...Angeline Gurlitt, Bad-Ausee, Styria, Lenaughel, Austria
Southern Cross Branch...Thelma Hardie, (Mrs.) Pigeon Bay Banks, Peninsula Canterbury, New Zealand

CLUB CUB

HARRY LILLIS "TEX" CROSBY III

HONORARIES

Mrs. Kathryn Grant Crosby
Gary Crosby
Frankie Laine
Ken Murray
Rosemary Clooney
Debbie Reynolds
Donald O'Connor
Phil Silvers
Steve Allen
Mrs. Harry L. Crosby
Pat Boone
Perry Como
Eddie Fisher
Fontane Sisters
Liberace
Bill Stewart
Jack Ellsworth

Reverend Clifford Carroll, S.J. - Librarian at Gonzaga University
Michael Holliday - singing star of Great Britian
Happi Hill - New Zealnd disk-jockey
Douglas Black - South Australian disk-jockey
Gordon Wall - Victoria, Australia
Stan Gibson - New South Wales, Australia

Membership dues: $1.25 - plus 3 - 6¢ stamps

An X on the address label means your membership expires with this issue of "Bingang".

We are registered with:

Hear Hollywood
Hep Cats Review
TV and Movie Screen
Movie Stars Parade
Movie Mirror
Teen Magazine
Movie Life

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Notes From the Editor..... 1
From the Crosbys..... 2

REGULAR FEATURES

Snaps for Sale..... 6
Southern Cross Branch..... 7
Just Bits of Interest..... 8
Birthday List..... 8
Record Reviews..... 10
Pen Pal Page..... 13
From the West Coast..... 15

ARTICLES

Mrs. Bing Crosby Motherhood Her Greatest Role..... 5
A Few Words From The V.P..... 9
From a New Club Crosby Member..... 11
Another New Club Crosby Member - How I Became a Crosby Fan..... 12
Miscellaneous Bits..... 12
No Reasonable Offer Refused and Any Reasonable Offer Will Be Considered..... 13
Mike and Bing..... 14
If I Had A Daughter..... 16
Bing Has Won the World..... 19
One Hour With Bing (Poem)..... 21
Sing a Song of Crosby..... 22
Visit to Hollywood..... 23
The Anti-Fabian Position..... 23
Opening Night - June 25, 1959..... 25
Crosby Label to Deb With Life Mag Tie..... 26
Twin Sets Debs Bing's Label..... 27

Snaps
7
14
20
26

NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

Well, here we are once again with a new journal, once again. Thank you to the members who have written saying they enjoyed the last issue, it makes me feel very proud, as I try very hard to make each issue interesting, and full of new information if at all possible.

Well, we have many Crosby letters for this issue, one from Bing, one from Larry, and three from Kathryn. I had written her to become an Honorary Member of our club, and Tex as club cub. You will read that she says, she thinks it would be improper, since she is married to Bing, but I have still listed her as an Honorary, and have written explaining to her, that we want very much to have her, and that Bing's Mom, is one also. I hope you feel as I do.

As for snaps I am very happy to once again have four of them. The ones on page seven and 20, were sent me by Larry, and once again want to thank him. The one on page 14, was sent me by Stan White of England, from a newspaper, the one on page 26, came from the Seattle-Post Intelligencer.

As for Bing's birthday, I was very sorry that we collected so little money. At first I was going to return it to you, but then decided to get Bing something for himself, so I got a very nice gold tie bar, shaped like a golf club, with a tiny pearl, for a golf ball. For Christmas we will once again take a collection for Christmas, and give it once again to the St. Labre Indian Mission in, Ashland, Montana. Most members liked the idea of sending it there, so it was decided to once again send it to them.

The letter I received from Bing, is one of the longest he has even written, and was so proud when I got, that I had to show it to all my friends and family. I was very happy to read, where he said he read and enjoyed the latest issue of, "Bingang".

Bing has been taking life easy these days, just came back from a fishing trip off the coast of Alaska. He will now getting ready to prepare his first television show of, September 29th.

I am very happy to have the article about the boys appearance; by Elsie Schweer, when the were in Chicago, she went on opening night, and has written an article about it, I do hope you will enjoy it. I must say thank you once again to her for it. Of course; you probably know that Bing once again became grandfather on May 7th, when Phil's wife had a baby girl.

I am sure that by now, most of you have seen and enjoyed, "Say One for Me", I have also seen and enjoyed, "Anatomy of a Murder", and "The Big Circus", and also saw, "Holiday for Lovers".

There is some talk that Bing and Bob Hope want to make one more Road picture, "Road to Paradise", and it will be the last one, they are trying to get Marilyn Monroe to co-star with them.

I'd like to once again welcome our new members. I hope they will enjoy their stay with Us:

William S. Pietrzak
Betty Jane Benner
Camilla Cunningham
Molly Hughes (Mrs.)
Wynne Mason (Mrs.)
Jeffrey Geist

I guess that's about all for now, please do go ahead and enjoy the journal. I hope you will soon all be contributing to our future journals. I would like to ask you also to please acknowledge your journal, as I would like to know if it arrives to you alright.

Bing-cerely,

Rena

FROM THE CROSBY'S

May 25, 1959

Miss Rena Albanesi
128 Kimball Terrace
Yonkers 4, New York

Dear Rena:

I swear I thought I wrote and thanked you for the birthday gift. I must have dictated the letter and then mislaid it. I do thank you very much for the sentiment.

I just finished reading a recent edition of Bingang. I want to compliment you and your staff on the nice job you do with this publication. It's really quite an interesting piece of material, and very well assembled. I really am baffled as to where you find all this subject matter, but I'm grateful to you and the gals for the work you do in connection with it.

I thought I had another picture all set to start in a few weeks. We've been talking about it for months - a thing called "Bachelor's Baby", a comedy by Gwen Davenport, who you may recall wrote Cheaper by the Dozen. It's a very funny comedy, and our chief problem was trying to find a couple of leading ladies of sufficient reputation and stature to help us at the box office. It's no longer wise to go into a picture without adequate support in all departments, particularly the opposite leads.

Practically everybody we wanted was busy, so it appears now that the picture is off temporarily. We may get around to it next fall, or maybe something else by that time - I just don't know.

I don't know whether or not you saw the recent series which ran in LIFE magazine, called "How the West Was Won". We're now engaged in putting together a big album using some of the art from the series, and some of the narration, and incorporating the songs of the era covered by the series. It should be a very interesting album, and one that we hope a lot of people would like to have in their collection.

It is going to involve Rosie Clooney and myself, possibly Burl Ives, some important folk singers who haven't as yet been decided upon, several big choral groups, and the general musical job is going to be taken over by Hank Mancini, I believe. We are going to try to do something really worth while in this effort.

We're doing a big benefit premiere down at El Centro the 20th of June. There's a very real necessity there for Youth Recreation facilities, and we hope with the proceeds of the premiere to raise enough money to erect them some sort of a structure for such use. I have several of these little projects going in different parts of the country,

FROM THE CROSBY'S.....Cont'd.

which occupy my attention from time to time, but not doing very much work otherwise, until possibly fall when I'll get another television show ready, and possibly another movie.

Please give my very best to all the club members. Believe me to be, as ever -

Your friend,

Bing

Bing Crosby

BC:lm

* * * *

July 29, 1959

Miss Rena Albanesi, President
THE CLUB CROSBY
128 Kimball Terrace
Yonkers 4, New York

Dear Rena:

Bing has been in and out of town recently - here to oaky business details, up to Calgary for the stampede; and now off to Seattle for the Seafarer's Parade.

After this he and several friends are off on their annual cruise and salmon safari off the coast of Alaska.

He is due back in September for the "blessed event."

Mrs. Bing has been entertaining her relatives from Texas and taking some courses on medial care of children.

Her sister and husband are running the ranch at Rising River. Her mother and father have been vacationing there. Her brother and wife have been visiting here. Now her Aunt Frances is here. Looks like we'll all become Texans by association, but I guess there are too many ornery Crosbys for absorbtion.

Best to all -

Sincerely,

Larry Crosby

LC:vs

* *

In 1931 George and Ira Gershwin, completed their first "Talking Picture" and were pleased that the movie big shots permitted them free rein. Then they discovered a clinker, that once the score is completed the composer-lyricist team has no further connection with the picture. To make certain there'd be no mistakes about the tempo, one of the last things George did before leaving Hollywood was to record the score. For this chore he waved a fifty-dollar bill at an obscure vocalist Paul Whiteman band and hired him to sing every song in the picture. That session could be a Tevee Special today if some one could dig up the records-for the man at the piano was Gershwin himself, and the unknown who crooned the tunes is still a pretty hot star in the entertainment racket- a fellow named Bing Crosby.

(Herald Tribune) Hy Gardner July 9, 1959

The Crosby Brothers signed a deal to play the Chez Paree in Chicago once a year for 5 years. Bob Hope caught their act, then advised Bing: "Get a piece of them."

July 27, 1959

August 11, 1959

Club Crosby
c/o Rena Albanesi
128 Kimball Terrace
Yonkers 4, New York

Dear Club Crosby Members:

What a lovely birthday card, you sent Tex for his birthday. You're so thoughtful on every occasion - and this, of course, was a very special one.

Tex decided to walk on his birthday - and he did. He decided that crawling was for babies and he was now a man because he is one going on two. He drank all the pink lemonade and ate all the cake he could hold, and all in all made the day a wonderful occasion. Your thoughtfulness certainly helped to add to the festivities.

Best wishes,

Kathryn Crosby

KGC:nb Mrs. Bing Crosby

* *

MRS. BING CROSBY - MOTHERHOOD HER GREATEST ROLE Louella Parsons

The young wife of Bing Crosby works hard at being Kathryn Grant the actress, and even harder at being Mrs. Bing Crosby, wife and mother.

"I would give up my career in a minute if it threatened my marriage," said Kathryn, "but Bing wants me to continue with my motion picture ambition. When I was offered the role in "Anatomy of a Murder, I didn't even say anything about it to Bing. I told the studio I couldn't accept the part because it would take my away from home and on location in Ishpeming, Michigan, for a month or more.

"Bing heard about it and said, 'Go ahead and take it. This is a very important picture, and you shouldn't miss this opportunity. You go, and I'll stay home and take care of the baby.' So I accepted," said Kathryn.

The idea of Bing playing nursemaid to Harry Lillis Crosby III (or "Tex" as he is called in honor of his mother and the State Texas she hails from) struck me as being very amusing.

"The baby already likes Bing better than he does me," said the proud mother. "Tex always holds out his arms to Bing and laughs when he's around. They have such a good time together."

New York Journal American June 14, 1959

August 25, 1959

Miss. Rena Albanesi
128 Kimball Terrace
Yonkers 4, New York

Dear Rena:

You're very kind to want me to be a member of your club for Bing, and he has told me so much of your work and your friendship through the years, I am really quite honored. I'm delighted that you want Tex for your cub, and of course he's welcomed to be the club cub, but since I am married to Mr. Crosby, I think it would be a bit improper for me to be a member of his fan club, or his friend club. Wives are not very good at being friends or fans of their husband. I have so much more to do - like, oh, keeping up with his correspondence and mine, and trying to become domestic - which is very very difficult for a trapeze artist to do.

My best to you all,

Kathryn Grant Crosby

KGC:nb

Kathryn Grant Crosby

* * * *

SOUTHERN CROSS BRANCH Thelma Hardie

Well Members, there isn't very much to report this time, but recently I did read an interesting article published in an English magazine. It was a review on Bing and Rosemary Clooney's LP Album, "Fancy Meeting You Here."

It was described as one of the gayest, most professional discs for a long time. The idea of teaming Crosby and Clooney together was a stroke of near-genius that earned a Disc Parade Seal of Merit.

This album is now available in Australia, and will be here in the course of a few weeks.

Naturally, we are all looking forward to seeing Bing's latest movie, "Say One for Me". It will be just wonderful seeing him on the screen again after such a long absence.

The film is receiving quite a lot of advance publicity, and the "Reviews are Excellent". The recordings have now been released in Australia and should be in our music stores very soon.

I'm sure Father Conroy in this film will be just as irrestible as Father O'Malley was in, "Going My Way" and, "The Bell's of St. Mary's".

Goodbye for now, and best wishes to you all.

* *

Part of the "Say One For Me", review from the New York Times by Bosley Crowther:

After all the times Bing Crosby has played a priest in films, you'd think by now he would be a Bishop or a Monsignor, at least. But no, he is still a parish pastor, in Frank Tashlin's "Say One for Me."

As for Bing-well, he's just about as usual, a little less lively, perhaps, a little older looking, but still casual and sincere. He'll never make Monsignor. He'll always be a parish priest, whenever he turns his collar backward, because you always sense a sport shirt underneath.

June 20, 1959

* *

Bing, Kathryn, unknown man
in Northern California

JUST BITS OF INTEREST

Nina Shipman is to be seen as a tough chorine in Bing Crosby's "Say One for Me". Some of us recall that Nina's pretty mom, dancer-actress Gwynn Shipman, also worked with Bing (before Nina was born) in "Anything Goes". On one of her days off, she was thrown from a horse, breaking her collarbone. The studio dropped her contract. Bing protested-said he would not go on with the picture until she was paid three months salary...
(New York Journal American) May 8, 1959

In, "Say One for Me", Bing Crosby sings what become a successor to, "White Christmas", a warm tune titled "The Secret of Christmas." Debbie Reynolds and Bob Wagner join Bing in the last four bars, entitling them to share in the sale of the soundtrack recordings. If you don't think this adds up to plenty of shekels let me point out that Grace Kelly, who sang only FOUR WORDS with Crosby on "True Love", has already received more than $30,000 in royalties.
(Herald Tribune) July 10, 1959

An old landmark is disappearing on the Paramount lot where workmen are ripping out the walls of the old Bing Crosby suite to do it over for a new occupant.
(New York Journal American) August 7, 1959

Marriage to Bing Crosby, a baby and a career, might be enough for most girls, but Kathryn Grant Crosby never indulges an idle moment. She's been studying in a medical group including nine nuns and one priest at Immaculate Heart Convent and Kathryn passed with all A's.
She's also happy that Harry Lillis Crosby III, better known as "Tex", just celebrated his first birthday by taking his first step.
(New York Journal American) August 12, 1959

Paramount plans to re-issue, "The Country Girl", with Bing Crosby, Grace Kelly and William Holden in November.
(Daily News) August 16, 1959

The Philip Crosby's (She was Sandra Jo Drummond), will make Bing Crosby a grandfather again around New Year's Eve.
(Herald Tribune) August 17, 1959

Andy Williams is walking on air because Bing Crosby congratulated him on his Hawaiian Wedding Song disk. Bing recorded the same tune under a different title years ago, and thinks Andy's version is just great. He's also told Andy that he's a fine versatile singer and ought to do a wider variety of songs. So Andy, who just recorded a Hawaiian song album, will now do a Western album, following by an album of hymns.
(Celebrity) 1959

* *

I have for sale, some back copies of the journal, The February, 1959, and June, 1959 issues. If you are interested in purchasing one, they are 35¢ each.

BIRTHDAY LIST
Jo Clancy - 326 Eddy Street - San Francisco, California - Dec. 19
Ann Heidelberger - 404 Highland Avenue - Clifton, New Jersey - Nov. 19
Pat Sullivan - 3134 North 53rd. Street - Milwaukee 16, Wisc. - Dec. 16
Maryrose Cordell - 115 Prentiss Street - San Francisco 10, Calif. -
Kathryn - Nov. 25 - Crosby Office

A FEW WORDS FROM THE V.P. Mary Maloney

Aloha,

I knew sooner or later this would happen. Here I am faced with a column deadline and no members for you to meet, so there will be no Meet the Members column this time. It's up to those of you who have not written to me yet. If you'd like to be featured, drop me a few lines telling me about yourself.

Hope you all enjoyed your vacations, as much as I did. I certainly had a wonderful time, visiting our 50th State--Hawaii. Loved the jet flight to San Francisco. It was smooth and enjoyable. Delicious meals were served, and all in all I'm sold on flying.

Hawaii is a beautiful place. We spent five days in Honolulu and did lots of sightseeing during that time. Did some swimming at famous Waikiki Beach. In fact, the hotel we stayed at was on Waikiki and it was just beautiful.

We took a tour of the island of Oahu, which is the island Honolulu is on. Then we, also took a boat cruise to Pearl Harbor, which was impressive and a bit sad, too. We managed to eat in many lovely resturants while in Honolulu. Visited a pine apple cannery, aquarium and even went to a Hawaiian Luau.

After our five days in Honolulu, we took a six day tour of four of the other islands, which was fascinating, interesting as well as lots of fun. We flew from island to island via Aloha Airlines. We were on Molokai, Maui, Kaui, and the big island of Hawaii. It would be hard to pick my favorite island for each has a beauty and charm all its own.

At the end of that tour we came back to Honolulu for four more days, and did more sightseeing, swimming and of course, shopping. Then flew home or rather to Los Angeles for two days and on home to New York by jet. It was a vacation I'll never forget and at the time it all seemed like a dream, and still does.

This weekend I finally caught up with Bing's movie, "Say One For Me", and thoroughly enjoyed it. There is only one thing wrong with Bing's movies--he doesn't make enough of them to suit us, right?

That latest news that the Crosby boys will bring their nightclub act to New York is good news to those of us in this area. The act has been a smash hit.

Last month a fellow member, Ann Heidelberger and myself along with another friend of ours, had dinner with Ruth Ness, former prexy of CLUB CROSBY. It was my first meeting with Ruth and I enjoyed seeing her in person after such a long time. Ruth was in New York on vacation.

Speaking of Ann, she will be married on October 3rd, and I'm sure you all join with me in wishing her every success and happiness. In April I attended a bridal shower for Ann at Headquarters Restaurant in New York City and I have never seen any one more surprised than she was.

The new television season will be starting soon and all of us Crosby fans are waiting for it eagerly. Bing will be in several shows of his own plus guest appearances. The latest I read about last week will be an appearance with Perry Como, which should be quite a show.

Hope you've found these ramblings of mine interesting. Must run along now, and once again I'll say Aloha. (In Hawaiian this means hello, goodbye, till we meet again).

Mary

RECORD REVIEWS Rena Albanesi

Bing - A Musical Autobiography of Bing Crosby 1941-1944 D1 9067

This is a direct pick-up of sides five and six of the original, "Bing" de luxe autobiography package, issued about five years ago. With Crosby's own between tunes musings and announcements, the set offers the old and original recordings of, "White Christmas", "Moonlight Becomes You", "I'll Be Seeing You," etc, with such as Mary Martin, Bob Hope and the Andrews Sisters featured in various bands. Some potential for the Crosby fans.

Billboard May 11, 1959

Hello Hawaii D1 8906

Label has waxings by Bing Crosby, Andrews Sisters and Ames Brothers. Bing sings, "Sweet Leilani" and "Aloha Oe".

Billboard June 6, 1959

Say One For Me C1 1337

The new Bing Crosby-Debbie Reynolds movie is a box-office smash, and this sound-track package should chalk up similiar sales success. The tuneful score, sung personably by the two stars and actor Robert Wagner.

Side 1

1. Main Title
2. Say One for Me - Bing and Debbie Reynolds
3. Say One for Me - Orchestra
4. You Can't Love 'Em All - Debbie Reynolds and Robert Wagner
5. Say One for Me - Orchestral Reprise
6. The Girl Most Likely to Succeed - Debbie Reynolds
7. You Can't Love 'Em All - Orchestral Reprise

Side 2

1. The Night Rock and Roll Died - Judy Harriet
2. I Couldn't Care Less - Bing
3. I Couldn't Care Less - Hangover scene
4. Say One for Me - Bing
5. Chico's Choo-Choo - Debbie Reynolds and Robert Wagner
6. The Secret of Christmas - Bing

Billboard July 13, 1959

Say One For Me C1 4-41387
I Couldn't Care Less
Frank De Vol and his Orchestra - no review

Gary Crosby Belts the Blues Verve MGV 2412

This Crosby son has cut a niche for himself as a firstrate jazz singer. His relaxed style, deep-toned pipes and smart phrasing are showcased on a program of standards, including, "Sentimental Journey" a multiple-doubled vocal), "In The Wee Small Hours of the Morning," "Breeze," "What's Your Story Morning Glory," "I'm Gonna Move To The Outskirts of Towns," and others. A combo under Marty Paich furnishes sympatieo backgrounds.

FROM A NEW CLUB CROSBY MEMBER

Les Gaylor

I am a new member to the long established, "Club Crosby" due to the generosity of that very keen member, Pat Sullivan, and I would like to ask Rena to accept this article from me to print in, "Bingang".

Well, to start with I live Bing and his records and I have a very large collection which I have built up over the last 20 years. I am well on the way to complete my collection and I am the proud possessor of seven personally signed records that Bing and the American Decca, Distributing Corporation gave me in 1951, 2 of these have my name on and all are signed in white ink.

Also I have a personally autographed copy of, "Call Me Lucky" Bing's autobiography which also has my name in it.

I have a private Bing discography of every commercial recording Bing has made and, I have just about every Master Number Recording Date, etc., that he has done since the early days of his career.

Every piece of this information I have actually got from the American Record Companies concerned and from Larry Crosby and Basil F. Grillo of the Crosby Office, so you can guess easily of the countless hours that I've put in at letter writing, filing all the information.

I know of every alternate Master recording that has been issued in my memory, and the latest addition to my discography is that I possess the original recording logs as actually made out at the, "Fancy Meeting You Here", LP sessions. They were sent to me by Mr. Bones Howe of Radio Recorders who was actually responsible for recording the LP.

These logs are very interesting indeed as the LP was eventually made up of splicing and editing various tapes to get a finished tape.

Also during the sessions a three day one Bing and Buddy Cole entertained everyone during takes, and great fun was had by one and all.

You'll notice that this LP is not recorded in the way of quality as regards the Artists Voices in the manner that Decca Engineers or CBS would have done it. This was because Bing and Rosemary Clooney were not in a soundproof chamber or remote front of the studio as is the usual procedure, instead they were asked to stand in front of the orchestra because it was thought by the producer that they would feel freer as in concert style, this to my mind did not bring out the superb deep Bing masculine tones as on that excellent recording of, "Gigi" as recorded by Decca.

On the "Isle of Capri" for instance at the point where Rosie sings, "The boat whistle warned not to linger", this was a duet, but owing to it being too high for Bing he was cut out in the final dubbing of the tapes. On Bing's stereo tapes was also recorded the bass fiddle so, in cutting Bing out at the duet. Point the bass fiddle was deleted, you can hear it drop out at the point where Rosie sings lyrics as above.

Now, the main purpose of this article is that owing to the too few fresh Bing recordings being released these days, I would like to ask all the members of the "Club Crosby" if they will write to the Decca Records Inc., as I have done many times and ask for a better release of Bing recordings that have not been issued before.

There are many of the superb Bing, Buddy Cole Trio and Orchestra recordings or CBS tapes that Decca could issue, also they have some Bing's on their own tapes, and the great singing as many of the Crosby radio shows would offer a great number of excellent items.

FROM A NEW CLUB CROSBY MEMBER.....Cont'd.

Maybe, Decca would say that Bing doesn't sell these days, but there is enough fans around to justify sales of records to cover cost of production etc., so how about you all putting pen to paper and drop Decca a line for more recordings.

Like me, I feel sure you'd all like more Bing records that have not be issued before instead of re-issue policy as being carried out now by Decca. It is a tragedy that so many of those magnificent, Buddy Cole Trio accompaniment recordings are denied the Crosby fans, these are big favorites here in Britain.

I was a very happy person, recently as for supplying Larry Crosby and Basil F. Grillo with certain Bing record Information, they sent me over an LP of, "The Man Without a Country" as a gift, like Decca Sales Sheet Alone is worth framing as it states, "Sold to Bing Crosby", etc. Was I pleased.

Les Gaylor - 16 Pan Lane - Newport, Isle of Wight, England

* *

ANOTHER NEW CLUB CROSBY MEMBER

HOW I BECAME A CROSBY FAN! Werner Dinges

In 1945, when the war was over I was a 15 year old boy, who never heard much of American music. So when the first radio programs and hit parades were broadcasted over American Forces Network, I was the one who listened and listened. It was a new world for me and I liked it very much. I didn't know any names of singers or of bands at this time. But, one voice sounded familiar at once. It was the voice of Bing Crosby. I still know the title of the song, "When The Bloom Is on the Sage".

Then came the first American movies to Germany, and so I learned that Bing wasn't only a wonderful singer, he was also a fine movie actor. The first Crosby film I saw was, "Holiday Inn", and I was delighted by the personality of, "Der Bingle". I liked his relaxed style and his natural manner. Then came his Oscar winning film, "Going My Way", and Bing was very popular in Germany, and still is.

How I liked those Road Pictures with Bob Hope! One day my friends told me that I could buy American records, So, I bought all of the Crosby tunes I could get.

So, as the years passed by, after seeing all his movies (several times of course) Bing had become my idol. And, looking for an explation? Well, I think every man wants to be like him, and in this stupid world of Rock 'n' Roll, Bing is still the one who smokes his pipe, grins his famous grin, and stands above them all. So I close this little story with a good wish for Bing, A wish that's also the title of a favorite record I have, "May the Good Lord Bless and Keep You".

Werner Dinges - Nuernberg - Cramergasse 22, West Germany

* *

Miscellaneous Bits

From Marie Carlson - 1414 West 26th. Street - Des Moines, Iowa
I have several duplicate articles on Bing and his family, which appeared several years ago in various magazines. I would like very much to sell these. Please have members write me.

Anyone interested in joining fan club for Tim Considine Fan Club. Please write Nancy-Ellen Cronshey 7303 Willow Avenue - Takoma Park 12, Maryland.

PEN PAL PAGE — Pat Sullivan

Werner Dinges
Nuernberg
Cramergasse 22,
West Germany

Werner has been a Bing fan since 1945, but is a new member of the Club Crosby gang. He writes that he is an avid Crosby record collector and that he likes Bing's "casualness, his relaxed manners" and that he wishes he could "Sing like he does". Although Werner apologizes for his English at the end of his letter, there was really no need-he writes a wonderful letter.

Anne Woon
17 Michaels Avenue
Ellerslie, Auckland
New Zealand

Anne is an 18 year old girl who is busily engaged in nurses training in Auckland, New Zealand. Her interests includes sports, letter writing and other general subjects, and she is particularly interested in writing to a fellow of her own age group.

Betty Feldman
1346 Constitution Avenue, N.E.
Washington 2, D.C.

Betty is a 28 year old member from Washington, D.C. She writes that her nickname is Kitty and that she is 5 feet 5 inches with chestnut brown hair and light green eyes.

Mrs. Molly Hughes
27, Walter Street
Brierfield
Nr. Burnley
Lancashire, England

If you wish to be included on the PEN PAL PAGE, contact Miss. Pat Sullivan, 3134 North 53rd. Street, Milwaukee 16, Wisconsin, she has not be hearing from many of you.

* *

NO REASONABLE OFFER REFUSED AND ANY REASONABLE OFFER WILL BE CONSIDERED

Letter received from the Crosby Office written by R.E. Melgren - 3443 S.W. 16th. Street, Miami 45, Florida

Due to financial difficulties it becomes necessary for me to part with my most prized possession. A large collection of original releases of phonograph records of Bing Crosby. Included in this collection are numbers with Paul Whiteman both on Columbia and Victor records. Also Columbia records such as "Can't We Be Friends", "I Kiss Your Hand Madame" and "My Kinda Love" which are real old. Victor numbers include "You Took Advantage of Me", "I Surrender Dear", "Ho Hum", and many others with Gus Arnheim Orchestra. On Brunswick, most of the tunes from Crosby films plus many others such as, "Give Me A Heart to Sing To", "Getting To Be a Habit with Me". On Decca there is a complete set of Blue label Deccas, plus most everything up to 1951. My asking price is $2,000,000 for the whole collection. I wish to state that I would like to sell the whole collection at one time, but would consider any reasonable offer. Also wish to mention that the whole collection is in albums with Bing's picture on the front, 12 records to each album.

Bing and Mike Holliday at a
Californain golf course

MIKE MEETS BING!

They meet...at last! The Old Groaner and the man who sings Old-Groaner style-Liverpool's Crosby-ish ex-seaman, Michael Holliday.

It happened a few days ago in California. And Mike hotfooted the picture (above) to us. "The end of a lifelong ambition," he says.

The last time he caught a glimpse in the flesh of his singing idol, only Bing's back was visible. And there was no conversation.

Bing, was a first-class passenger in the liner Queen Mary. Mike was a tourist-class waiter.

And for venturing into the classier decks, Mike was called before the skipper, severely reprimanded and fined a quid.

Now...everything's just fine.

Says Mike in a message to us: "I am glad to report that Bing is as nice as you and I would have wanted him to be.

"I spent a day at his home and went around the golf course with him at Santa Barbara where the picture was taken."

(London Daily Mirror) June 11, 1959

* *

Bing Crosby won't take rooms in a hotel above the second floor; does not depend on elevators in an emergency. When kidded about it Bing tells the yarn of the interloper being surprised by a returning husband. The frightened one cried to the wife: "What'll I do?" Go out through the window?" "Out of the window? came his moan. "Why, we're on the 13th. floor!" "This is no time to be superstitious," came the lady's reply.

(Daily Mirror)

FROM THE WEST COAST Priscilla Koernig

HOWDY!

I'm writing this during my vacation. My girlfriend Donna and I are taking one week now and our other week in December, so we can see the Rose Bowl Parade in Pasadena, California. We are spending this week at McArthur-Burney State Park in Shasta County, Northern California. We took a little "side trip" today to locate Bing's Rising River Ranch, which is only about 12 miles from here. Bing sure knows where the beautiful country is.

I saw, "Say One for Me" on a sneak preview basis and it was even more exciting seeing one of Bing's pictures in such atmosphere. Bing looked very well and sang beautifully. I like Bing playing the part of a priest. Before I saw the picture, I thought my favorite song from it was, "I Couldn't Care Less". However, now my favorite song is, "The Secret of Christmas". I could go on and on raving about this latest Crosby triumph, but I want to save some space for news articles from the West Coast. I will add that I hope "Say One for Me" is just the "Beginning" (referring to the closing title of the picture) for more great Crosby movies soon. We've missed you on the screen for two years, Bing. Now, for some news items:

S.F. Examiner, June 28, 1959-GOING BING'S WAY WITH SONGS AND CASSOCKS --by Jackie Peterson-After 15 years as a member of the cinematic laity, Bing Crosby once again dons the Roman collar and cassock of a Catholic priest for his role in the 20th Century-Fox musical, "Say One for Me". Looking back on his previous stands in the motion picture pulpit--an Oscar-winning performance in "Going My Way" and a fast, successful follow-up in, "The Bell's of St. Mary's"--a good many fans are probably wondering why it's taken the Groaner this long to climb back into his sacerdotal robes. Crosby, sportsman and businessman as well as showman, actually hasn't worked in any Hollywood film for the past couple of years. What brought him scurrying back to the screen were rumors that he planned to retire as well as financial matters. "Man does not live by fishing alone," he recently asserted and, being up in the 90 per cent tax bracket, he added, "and I need the money, regardless of what Bob Hope says." So, when Frank Tashlin approached Crosby as the logical choice for the part of Father Conroy, the reply was, "Have Cassock, will travel". Of course, in the interval since his last priestly role, the one time pro has gotten slightly out of practice. Studio aides report that his first time out in costume on the sound stage he tripped over the hem of his long vestment, was heard to mutter, "Forgot you have to hitch them up when you come to a stairway." One of Bing's numbers as recorded from the soundtrack, a catchy ballad called, "I Couldn't Care Less," is already a disc jockey favorite and likely contender for the Hit Parade.

S.F. Chronicle, June 12, 1959--SWALLOWS GATHER FOR CYPRESS GOLF-- Pebble Beach-- The "Swallows" are gathering here today for their 18th annual golf tournament at Cypress Point. One of the better known "Swallows" is Bing Crosby, a three-handicap who once aced the ocean-going 16th. at Cypress Point.

S.F. Chronicle, July 1, 1959--Fox Theater has invited 1,000 nuns to the first showing today of the Bing Crosby collar reversal, "Say One for Me." Crosby is the only actor in the world with his own rectory set.

FROM THE WEST COAST.....Cont'd.

S.F. Chronicle, July 19, 1959--KATHY BRIGHTENED AN INDIAN SUMMER by Hedda Hopper--In the year and a half since Kathryn Grant married Bing Crosby, the little girl from Texas scored several firsts. She brightened his Indian summer by giving him a fifth child. It wasn't the girl he'd hoped for, but it was Harry Lillis Crosby, the first Junior in his life, Tex, Described to me as "a darling wacky baby, who already had eight teeth and bit his fingers before he learned how to manage things," was 9 months old the day Kathy drove up from Palm Springs for our interview. You'd never have taken her for an expectant mother; she was slim and chic in a blue sheath and little jacket. "My mother says this is what folks in Texas call a decent interval between children," she laughed. "And just think, there'll be no problem about what to tell Harry when his little brother or sister is born."
Watch for Bing Crosby's sneak appearance in "The Big Circus". If you look quick enough, you'll spot Bing in the gaping grandstand crowd which watches Kathryn Grant do tricks on the high trapeze.

Here's an article which appeared in "Western Family Outlook" - April, 1959, which I know you'll enjoy. The magazine is only available here on the West Coast--"It is my sneaking suspicion IF I HAD A DAUGHTER ---by Bing Crosby

"It's goes without saying that the gentlemen who are lucky enough to have a girl---or perhaps more---in the household will declare open season on me for the sentiments in this piece. 'What right does a guy with five sons have to talk about a daughter?', they have a right and duty to declare.

I hear you. I must admit have no experience. I have little to go on except a vague feeling that it would have been nice to have one of those cute objects with curls and giggles and a way with men. There's no law against having dream children. I can picture what my daughter might have been.

I figure she would have been blonde with brown eyes, twinkling like her mother's. Or I would settle mighty easy for a good old-fashioned redhead with bright blue eyes. Her name, of course, would have been Catherine---after my mother.

As for the hand-raising, the first few years of that would be out of my department. Maybe I'd teach her a few songs---like Too-Ra-Loo-Ra---or get her to take a few ballet steps. My main chore would be to be as careful as if I were handling a Dresden doll. Little girls break easily, I've heard.

Daughters, I understand, are easier to handle and control if you understand that they like to be clean, neat and, in general, polished up. I'd have to be trained in this by Catherine herself---my four always thought a swab behind the ears was the equivalent of a bath.

To me, for years, dolls have been anything female. But, that's show business talk. Probably I'd get my mouth washed out by a daughter. I have heard vague rumors that stores sell things stuffed and full of gadgets that go MA-MA when squeezed and they call these, "dolls". I guess I could cope with a small lady taking care of one--but it would be hard to get used to it.

The worst thing, as I figure out an imaginary daughter---and wish it wasn't so--would be to see a little girl grow up. I've seen some that I'd just like to keep at their ages or six or ten or twelve---but then they're wonderful at eighteen and twenty, too. I wouldn't be able to call a halt to anything; I'd just have to take a lot of pictures and run through the album when I felt lonely.

One problem: what do you do when a girl cries? Especially if she's your daughter and can't tell you exactly why? I've thought this over and it scares me. Probably some other fathers could be called upon for advice---but I've never seen one of my friends who really knew what to do.

Here again I bow to the fathers who have daughters. It is my sneaking suspicion that girls are a lot easier to raise than boys. They aren't as stubborn; they can be reasoned with at an earlier age; and they never get into any trouble running around together. Boys in a gang can raise cain in less time than it takes me to spell the word, girls usually take up knitting, or gossip. (Of course, I may be wrong, gentlemen.)

It's been my keen observation that in most families the boys take after the mother, the girls after the father. This is as it should be, to work out a balance. When someone tells me that my sons resemble their mother, it makes me proud; I wish I could hear someone say: 'Say that girl is a dead ringer for Bing!'

Naturally this might be a handicap to her. At least, according to some of my friends who are jealous of my good looks. And it might endow her with a set of vocal chords which would make her poundage take after Kate Smith---but that would be up to her.

I'd like to spend as much time as I could with my daughter. I think that's important for the father to do. He should try to be her adviser--the one she comes to when things are a little too rough in a world built for men. He should understand her enough to giver her a friendly nudge in the right direction.

What I would try to push her toward--if she would let me---would be a couple of goals. I would like to see her have a good education; through the public schools with good marks and on into--and through--college. I would want her to pick out something to do in later life, an occupation like teaching where she could always pick up enough pennies to be independent. Independence is a grand thing. I'm not foolish enough to think that she'd be without it. My experience with the descendants of the Crosby clan figures out that, if anything, we have too much of it.

I'd want my daughter to pick out some hobbies, too, in which she was really interested--and which would give her an interest in life long after she had lost any yen to make money. It would be a good idea especially for a girl to pick up some skill in athletics---tennis or swimming, or even softball. She should learn how to handle her own civic duties, how to perspire gently in charity functions and ladies organizations.

As far as religion is concerned, I would want her to pay a lot of attention to it, to get interested in it. That's so she would have it with her the rest of her life. I'm Roman Catholic myself, so that's the direction her original instructions would take. A firm foundation is the big thing--something she'll always be able to hang on to and depend on.

Finally, coming down to the one subject that would eventually be the focus of my daughter's life, I would want her to marry. A bachelor woman has simply not fulfilled her own life, in my thinking. Women need to be hitched in order to stand quietly.

Now my own grandmother, Kate, was married in her teens. She was 16, to be exact. That was a long time ago. It was in a different world, where travel and communication were slow, where one's friends as a child were one's friends all during life. Most of our ancestors never got away from the town in which they were born.

Today it's a lot different. With the planes and autos, with the radio and television, the world is the happy hunting ground of both sexes. Anyone who marries in their teens is foolish. People don't get old as quickly as they used to. They have time to look around to pick and choose. The important thing, in a country where the divorce rate is about one to every four marriages, is to glue yourself to a person whose nature will keep the marriage from coming unstuck.

To this end, I would have my daughter meet as many people, from all levels of life, as I can. I would try to have her go traveling, especially to Europe and the Orient, to see something beyond her own front doormat in the U.S.A.

And I would like to give my daughter as much genuine pleasure as I could while she was young, short of spoiling her. I would dramatize small things and make the big ones occasions. I don't resent these big debutante coming-out parties, for example; if you can afford them ---I would think a couple of times about it before I plunged. They seem to be events that the young people look forward to for a couple of years and look back on for the rest of their lives. I figure that's the most happiness she will get later on; looking back at the happy days she had with her dad; Harry Lillis.

As for the lad she marries, I would try to keep my hand out of that. But I would look into the family and background of her dates, even if she thought I was being stuffy. What a boy represent is important---not all---important but it certainly has its place. Eventually, I suppose, the man she picked would be all right with me as long as he was a good citizen and a good provider.

The point of it would be perhaps that the whole problem would have to be decided by me years before. It's up to the father, I think, to build some basis for his daughter's decisions years before she ever knows anything about the problem. I would have to tell Catherine about right principles and hope that my talks would stick. I say hope, because a good-looking male romancer can shoot holes in 20 years of teaching in 20 seconds.

In a case like that I'm as helpless as the next man. But taking a cue from a woman's traditional and instinctive opposition to man's wisdom---I'd say that a cure might be worked if you took the trouble of throwing the ideal together with the fact. They don't often match up, especially in young love. The idea would be not only to remove all obstacles, but even to grease the slide.

Perhaps in a case like this it would be better to consult a man who had five daughters---possibly Eddie Cantor.

The other item I sometimes wonder about is punishment. How to get that gal to toe the line! Naturally, spankings are out---after a rather early age. You have to use psychology. I guess my cure would be early hours and a short allowance. Then again---could I stand to see the big brown eyes bubble up?

I've always envied anyone who had a daughter---and, as you can read, I feel a little reluctant about investigating the problem for myself. But I have no shyness about giving one solid bit of advice: hang on to your daughters once you've got them, you fathers.

I never had the wonderful chance of doing just that. I wish I had had, gentlemen."

That's the news from the West Coast for this time. I know "Tex" must have had a nice birthday on August 8th. as I did. So long for now.

Priscilla

Dear Priscilla-and all the West Coast members of, "The Club Crosby".

The bobbing musical clown has not left little Tex's fists since it arrived the other day, but when it does I'm sure he'll replace it with the rubber bat that you sent.

What a lovely day he had-made even more wonderful by your thoughtfulness.

Best wishes,
Kathryn and Bing Crosby

* *

BING HAS WON THE WORLD — Derek Johnson

Who has the most distinctive singing voice in the entire orbit of "pop" music? In my humble estimation, the reply to that question is the same to-day as it would have been twenty years or so ago- Bing Crosby.

The individual and effortless quality of the unmistakable voice have enchanted, fascinated and soothed millions of fans throughout the world. It's a voice which knows no frontiers, barriers or restrictions-for Bing is accepted and acclaimed as the ultimate amongst "pop" singers from Tennessee to Timbuktu.

Irrespective of age, language or sex, there are surprisingly few people on the face of this earth who have not, at some time, admired the quality and charm of the Crosby vocal tones. And because of his unequalled universal appeal, he is surely the biggest selling recording artist, on an international basis of all time.

There is, of course, another truly remarkable facet of Bing's consistent popularity-and that is his apparent timeless quality.

Through the holocaust of show business Bing Crosby steers his unperturbed and unwavering course, seemingly unaffected by the perpetual changes around him. Always the hallmark of good taste, superb vocal talent, and unique personality. Bing gives the impression of being capable of continuing for ever.

No longer the heart-throb crooner or debonair film-star of his younger days. Bing's style has moulded and matured with the years. Describing his movie roles these days. Bing modestly says:

"I'm a little tough to cast these days. It seems I've become somewhat mature to get the girl-and far too selfish to let her go. That plateau is apt to limit a fellow's usefulness in pictures."

Well, have it your own way, Bing-but you can't get over the fact that you are still one of the cinema's biggest box office attractions on both sides of the Atlantic. And the many thousands flocking to see the latest Crosby film, "Say One for Me" (now on general release), will substantiate that point.

One sidelight on Bing which never fails to amaze me is the vast number of singers who have so clearly been influenced by him.

Such top-line performers as Perry Como, Dean Martin, Dave King and Michael Holliday have obviously taken a great deal out of the Crosby book. And the number of young singers who have studied and benefitted from, his records must run into thousands.

Which makes it all the more fantastic that, with so many artists emulating him (either deliberately or unintentionally) Bing still manages to retain his individuality.

Probably the most frequent query from readers with which the NME offices has to cope is the problem of who has more Gold Records-Bing

or Elvis. In these days of enormous disc sales, it's almost impossible to keep abreast of the million-sellers, and its possible that by now Elvis has overhauled Bing's total.

In fairness, however, there can really be no comparison between the two. Remember, for instance, that Crosby's principal sales were made at a time when discs were not enjoying the tremendous boom of today. Also, on some of his top disc titles, Bing's total sales have been quite fantastic-he's lost count of the number of millions of "White Christmas" he has sold!

In any case, from the recording point of view Bing has now largely turned his attention to album material, in which field he is a sure and steady seller.

Mind you, the best-sellers lists are sprinkled with periodic Crosby single hits. A glance through the NME files will reveal such chart entries as "Isle Of Innisfree," "Changing Partners," "Stranger In Paradise", "In A Little Spanish Town," "Around the World"-and his long-lasting "True Love" duet with Grace Kelly, resident in the top table for over six months.

But it's largely LP territory that Bing is conquering these days. American Columbia have just issued a sound-track LP from the film, "Say One for Me", which is selling extremely well (over here, there's just a single, including the title song, available at present on Philips, but the LP is scheduled for next month.

Bing has also just completed a new duet album with Rosemary Clooney, which he is issuing on his own label, following the successful tie-up of these two artists on RCA's "Fancy Meeting You Here" album.

As a recording artist, he's been going for appreciably over thirty years-and he looks good for many years to come. Many people, maintain that he's still the greatest of them all. Whether or not you happen to subscribe to that theory, you can't deny the salient fact that. . .THERE'LL NEVER BE ANOTHER BING CROSBY.

(New Musical Express) London July 24, 1959

* *

Bing with trout caught at new ranch in Northern California

ONE HOUR WITH BING — Alison Bruce

This poem was written for the, Summer, 1939, issue of, "Bingang", I thought you might enjoy it. The person who wrote it, is no longer a member.

I've been asked to cover a K.M.H. show
But as for the reason, I'm sure I don't know.
If all of you fans are the true Crosby kind
It shouldn't be needful for me to remind
You of the good time had by one and by all,
On Feb. the sixteenth in the Kraft Music Hall.

Bing opened the doors with "The Funny Old Hills"
Gayly recalling "Paris Honeymoon" thrills.
His ladee-o-laying did much for our mood
Till Bob came along and boo-boo-boo-booed.
J. Scott Trotter's eighteen were right on the job
Backing up Robin's crooning fresh from the cob.

The first guest, a Scotsman of quick wit and pun,
Nigel boosted the Bruce clan of which (ahem!) I am one.
Burns and Bruce waged a battle with much verbal vim.
The latter gave a poem written by him,
And proud Pappa Bing not to be outdone
Recited "To Daddy" by his eldest son.

One chorus of "Deep In A Dream" followed Ken
But our dreams were broken by Bob Burns again.
He told of an uncle, one Gus Rocks by name,
Who was a detective of some little fame.
With doubtful assistance from J. Trotter's boys
Bob bazooked "Hold That Tiger" with consid'rable noise.

Crosby's "Do You Remember" a swell lullaby
Revived from '15 helped to pacify.
And after another commercial for Kraft
Ken Buttonholed Bing and we all sat and laughed,
As he told of "The Muggers" and what they were doing
And how badly their funds needed renewing.

With the Doc's donation of one thousand dimes
The way was soon paved for Ken Carpenter's chimes.
A solo from Bing which was both old and blue
A title of this being "I Cried For You".
With his pear-shaped tones still fresh in the air
We were conscious of Florence Rice Being there.

She spoke in a soft, charming way all her own
As if she had stepped from some heavenly throne.
Her birthday we learned, comes on the day of the hearts.
Then the chatter drifted to far Eastern parts
As Florence, Bob, Nigel and Bing had some fun
I'n outdoing each other with a golf pun.

We next met Piatigorsky and cello
And agree that he is an all around good fellow
He resembles Bob Taylor and is fond of nicknames
And his music most surely has won our acclaims.
After three helpings he went on his way
And John Scott Served up some swell "Night And Day".

ONE HOUR WITH BING.....Cont'd.

"It's A Lonely Trail" was the Doc's last vocal effort
But plainly lacking was his usual support.
Reviewing the program, there's only that thing -
Just why didn't Paul Taylor's Choristers sing?
Perhaps there's time yet; but alas that is all,
And Bing with his "bon Soir" has locked up the Hall.

* *

SING A SONG OF CROSBY - From the same 1939 journal Mavis Anderson

"B" is for Bing, the world's sweetest singer.
All those who hear him sure want to linger.
"I" is for Irish in two eyes so fair.
Be-jabbers I'll tell you he's got something there.
"N" is for naps that wee babies take.
When he starts to sing, they can't stay awake.
"G" is the one girl he proudly presents
As the lovliest Mother of four little gents.
"C" is for Kraft Cheese we can't do without,
And I'll bet you Ken knows what he's talking about.
"R" is for Rhythm and Radio, too.
With Bing as the Doctor you'll never be blue.
"O" (boy!) is the sighs when he comes on the air,
With "size upon size" when Trotter is there.
"S" is for shirts of outstanding hue,
Of red and of yellow, 'deep-purple' and blue.
"B" is for boo-boos that we never hear,
So why try to mimic him year after year?
"Y" must his program end so darn fast?
Y can't they last? Oh, why can't they last?
If this could be so, we could all be in clover.
Please, Father Time, won't you think it over?

* *

Bing Crosby thought so much of Debbie Reynolds' new Dot album, Debbie, that he wrote a note for the album back cover. "I found myself captivated and enchanted," he said of the album. He calls Debbie a very clever young lady at work.
SCreen Stars Nov., 1959

Whenever musicians gather for chow or pow-pow, someone always brings up the favorite yarn about Bing Crosby. That is, the one where a musician in a recording studio, fascinated by the effortless way Bing pipe in mouth, tossed off one song after another, approached him and said, "Tell me Bing, how can you sing with a pipe in your mouth?"

Bing smiled just reached in his pocket, drew out a roll of greenbacks the size of a small rhino, and said, "That's how."
Stardom Nov., 1959

Bing Crosby proved once again this year that he needn't take a back seat to any of the younger generation of singers. On his first outings on ABC-TV he was a smash. He was busy developing new show ideas for the network, too and worked the telecast of his golf tournament. Now that his four older sons have all gone into show business, Bing sold his Nevada ranch. He and his wife Kathryn Grant and their son Tex divide their time between Holmby Hills and Palm Springs. Another Crosby is due this fall. A girl?

TV-Radio Album

VISIT TO HOLLYWOOD Shirley Gadd

Well, here I am again - this time to give you my impressions of Los Angeles and Hollywood, also my meeting with Mr. Larry Crosby.

Our first stop was the Grauman's Chinese Theatre, where I tried my footprints in those of "you know who".

We managed to visit a couple of television studios, which were very interesting. Some friends then drove us out to see Bing's home in Holmby Hills. This is a lovely two story house surrounded by a high fence and many beautiful shrubs.

We also visited Disneyland which is a wonderful place. It appeals to both young and old alike.

Most of the movies in production were on out of town locations, but we did see some of the shots of "The Fisherman" at the Universal Studios.

Los Angeles is indeed a wonderful city, the largest one on the Pacific Coast. It is renowned the world over for its balmy climate, but the chief attractions are its beautiful homes, the rare beauty of its grounds and endless palm and flower bordered drives. The city is centrally located in a wonderous scenic region with famous highways leading in all directions - mountain resorts and canyons fragrant with wild flowers.

Hollywood is located on the southern slopes of the Santa Monica mountains, midway between the business section of Los Angeles and the beautiful beaches of the Pacific Ocean. Although famous for its Motion Pictures, Radio and Television Industries, Hollywood is well for its cultural and eductional way of life, and is a city of beautiful homes.

While in Los Angeles I called at the Office of the Crosby enterprises, hoping to meet Bing, but was disappointed to find that he was with his family on vacation at Palm Desert, still I was fortunate to meet Mr. Larry Crosby who was very kind in giving up his valuable time to see me.

My visit to Los Angeles was quite an experience, and places that were just names to me are now reality, and I'll never forget them.

(Shirley Gadd, Albury, N.S.W., Australia)

* *

THE ANTI*FABIAN POSITION John Crosby

I was in the shower the other day singing "Twixt 45 and 50," the theme song of the Forgotten People (which is any one over the age of fourteen), and feeling sorry for myself. The world, I reflected, is not run for us ancients. We are just here to pay the bills. (This is not a brand New Thought, I realize, but then what do you expect in a newspaper column-Wisdom? But even if it's old hat, there is a certain bitter truth in it, and this particular bitter truth needs constant reassertion if we are not to be overwhelmed by the Little People.)

It's notthat I'm opposed to youth. Youth was great when I was a youth, but by George, they broke the mould right after me. At least the mould I came out of could not have been the same one that produced Fabian who was on the Ed Sullivan Show the other night, caterwauling or whatever he was doing. Fabian, I have been informed is one of the newer enthusiams of our young set, and one of the more presentable young singers.

Singers?

Presentable?

He was wearing a slipcover over an old tee shirt. The hair looked like something Medusa had sent back to the store as unworthy of her.

Although I'm told, he has been applauded as one of the more stationary and therefore admirable young entertainers (a word that has been thoroughly debased in my lifetime), he revolves like a top, snapping his fingers and jerking his eyeballs. Of course, he doesn't twitch like Elvis and I suppose we ought to be grateful for small mercies.

As for his voice...well, of course, singers gave up singing years ago in favor of shouting-but this one can't even shout. The song he was mouthing, "Like a Tiger," was enormously improved by total unintelligibility. Just in case you could make out a word here -God forbid-they turned up the electric guitar (or whatever it is that makes that awful racket in the background) and just to be doubly sure that that horrible song and the dreadful voice of young Fabian are totally drowned out-the young audience is encouraged to shriek, whistle, stomp, and if necessary, set fire to Ed Sullivan.

And that fellers, is how sweet chile becomes a teen-age idol in our wonderfully advanced civilization in this here twentieth century. Oh, there's one other requisite to becoming a people singer these days: you got to be utterly loathesome to adults-and that ingredient this little fellow has in generous quantities. God bless his little growing bank account.

I suppose we were revolting against our parents too, when we were little spratlings but the singers we liked-Bing Crosby, for example -could really sing. And you know why? Because he had to please not only us but our fathers and uncles because our fathers and uncles owned and operated the record companies and the radio networks and they didn't pay all that attention to the likes and dislikes of us little shavers (in fact, I can't recall any one paying any attention to me when I was thirteen.)

Today, the revolt is not so much against adults. It's against singing itself. It's against song itself. It's against-considering the quality of the lyrics-language itself.

Why do we put up with it? Record executives, who no longer pretend this junk is anything but horrible, plead that they have to cater to young tastes. But why? As Moss Hart has pointed out, it's ridiculous to be this subservient to the young. We're bigger than they are-and it's our house. And our TV set. And our record companies. And, dammit, we still got the vote, haven't we? If necessary, Fabian could be proclaimed unconstitutional and your small fry and mine couldn't do a thing to stop it.

The other day I was watching Jimmy Rodgers, another incomprehensible enthusiasm of the very young singing "I'm Too Young to Marry-o and I found myself yelling back at him: "You're too young to have your own show, too." That is an unmistakable sign of approaching madness. To argue with the set is weak-headed, but to argue with a teen-ager on television-obviously I'm coming unhinged.

(Herald Tribune) June 24, 1959

* *

On the eve of her appearance in divorce court Debbie Reynolds, remarked wryly, I'll be in the headlines tomorrow."

"Yeah," Bing Crosby nodded, "nice big black ones."

Debbie confined to Bing, "I'm so sick of these questions. I'm glad I'm going to Spain."

"You'll probably get them in Spain, too," Bing cautioned with a grin.

"Yeah," Debbie agreed with a laugh, "but they'll ask me in Spanish!"

(Starlife) August, 1959

OPENING NIGHT - JUNE 25, 1959
CHICAGO CHEZ PAREE
CROSBY BROTHERS

Elsie Schweer

It was a hot, humid and stormy night in Chicago, but I was determined to see the Four Crosby Brothers, Gary, Lindsay, Philip and Dennis on their opening night. I braved the weather and went, and once inside, it was cheerful and pleasant.

It was a tense night, everyone was very anxious to see and hear the boys and the audience proved they enjoyed what they heard and saw. I was very thrilled to hear the cheers. It made me feel so good to hear Chicago welcome the boys like they did. Everyone was amused when Gary said, "We haven't heard so much cheering since we told Ol' Dad we were leaving home."

The boys have a teriffic show. They have poise, charm and talent. They sing, dance and gab with genuine freshness and zing.

At the opening of their act, the three brothers go among the audience and shake hands while Gary takes the mike. Then they congregate for, "Singing In the Rain", and "My Mama Done Told Me". They shift into a different pace of folk songs and spirituals. When they did "Joshua Fit the Battle", the walls of the Chez came tumbling down with applause. I believe the high spot of their performance is a parody on a piece they call, "Thought About The Act". They do a splendid job of this.

They each do a solo. Lindsay sings, "In a Little Spanish Town", Phil does, "I'm a Fool for Beauty", Dennis sings, "Old Man River", and Gary does a blues number, "Baltimore Oriole".

They also do a dance act and get a big kick out of it.

The shadow of Bing himself is cast when they do a medley of his hit tunes including a rock and roll version of, "When The Blue Of The Night Meets The Gold of the Day".

To sum it up the Boys are good entertainers and loads of fun to listen to.

At the end of their act the Boys stood in front of the orchestra looking very pleased as the audience stood and cheered. The cheers were hushed by Dick Stabile, their musical director, as he took the microphone and said, "And now, I have a surprise for the boys. Not known to them, there is a fellow in the audience who flew in here to catch their first big act."

Gary put his hand over his mouth and seemed to gasp while the others stood very still.

There was a hush all over the place for a moment - then, "It's Phil Harris." Harris came to the stage, apparently crying, took his handkerchief and dabbed his eyes. He said he was so thrilled and glad of their success and knew their act would be one of the biggest in the entertainment industry. He then kidded the boys and the show was over.

I was so thrilled by it all that I did not mind getting soaked in the storm on my way home.

Elsie Schweer - 1232 Sunnyside Avenue - Chicago Heights, Illinois

The headliners: Der Bingle Crosby was on the long-distance wire from California shortly after his four sons finished their opening at the Chez Paree. He talked in turn to George Rosenberg (his agent who also guides the boys), Phil Harris and your reporter. Crosby was as elated as a dad should be over the glowing reports on Gary, Phil, Lindsay and Dennis. We told him we had arrived with trepidation, but remained to cheer, as did all the first nighters. Bing not only set up his sons with million-dollar trust funds, but he also gave each a million dollars worth of poise and personality, which is apparent in their act.

Autograph seekers swarm around a convertible bearing Grand Marshals Phil Harris (rear, left), Bing Crosby (rear, right) and Ed Crowley, (front, left), the personal representative of California Governor Edmund G. (Pat) Brown, in yesterday morning's Grande Seafair Parade. Seated between Harris and Crosby is A.A. (Bob) Littler. Der Bingle and his friends are in town for a seafair vacation.

(Seattle Post-Intelligencer) August 2, 1959

* *

CROSBY LABEL TO DEB WITH LIFE MAG TIE

Bing Crosby has started his own record company and has set as its initial project an album version of the Life Magazine series, "How the West Was Won." Package will consist of a two-LP album and will include the pix and prose published by Life in its even part treatment of the West. It will feature Crosby among other name artists who are to be signed within the next few weeks. Package will be aimed for the Christmas market.

Si Rady is president of the firm. Other officers include Crosby as board chairman, Basil Grillo and John O'Melveny as veepees with Todd Johnson as secretary-treasurer. (Grillo also is exec veepee of Bing Crosby Enterprises and O'Melveny is Crosby's long-time lawyer of the law firm of O'Melveny and Meyer). Label remained unamed at press time. Original plans to call it Roxbury Records were withdrawn when it was learned that the name was in use by another firm.

Crosby label will follow a unique approach. In a radical departure from the usual pattern of operations, the new diskery will concentrate its efforts only on special projects. Special tie-ins will be established with major industrial firms with upcoming albums to be produced for and in conjunction with these companies.

While Crosby will lend his vocal talents to the initial project, he will not record exclusively for his own label. He plans to retain his free-lance status, allowing him to continue recording for other labels.

CROSBY LABEL.....Cont'd.

Rady will helm the company's operations and also serve as its top artist-repertoire evex. He comes to the Crosby firm as a record industry veteran of approximately two decades. He started as a free-lance disk producer. He later joined Decca Records where he served for 12 years handling artist-repertoire in the kiddisk pop album, show packages and classical realms. During his time he helped Decca pioneer in the spoken word field. Rady moved to RCA Victor where he was European artist-repertoire manager for three years, headquartering in Paris. He switched to Victor's West Coast operation, holding down the artist-repertoire post for approximately one year.

Altho Crosby has remained a top recording artist for the past 25 years, this marks, his initial move into the label ownership facet of the business. Trade rumors periodically have pointed to his launching his own label. These were strongest five years ago when Decca Records was locked in a proxy battle. Crosby remained loyal to Decca's management rather than abandon the fold to start his own diskery.

Billboard May 18, 1959

TWIN SETS DEBS BING'S LABEL

Si Rady last week concluded recording the double-LP album which parallels Life Magazine's seven-part "How the West Was Won" series. Recording is first to be made on Project Records, Bing Crosby Enterprises subsidary label headed by Rady.

Life is currently pre-testing the package in various markets to determine whether it will sell it via mail-order to its 6,000,000 subscribers supported by ads in its magazine or whether it will turn it over to a major record company for distribution. If Life decides to handle the album's sales, it will mark the first time, that it offered its readers disk merchandise. (It has enjoyed considerable success with special book offers based on its series-i.e. "History of Man," "History of Religions," etc.)

In addition to the two LP's , the de luxe package will consist of a book containing an adaptation of the seven articles recently completed in the magazine. The book will also feature key illustrations which had appeared in the magazine series.

Rady's recordings boast an all-star cast: Bing Crosby, Rosemary Clooney, Jimmy Driftwood (permission of RCA Victor), Mormon Tabernacle Choir (permission of Columbia Records), with Burl Ives as narrator (permission of United Artists). Bob Thompson is arranger and conducts the orchestra. Advisors on Project's project include Alan Lomax, Beth Hawes, and folk lorist Sam Hinton, Dr. Lucas Foss (UCLA's Music department) and Jimmy Van Huesen.

Package will be sold for less than $10. It is contemplated that after Life Magazine has completed its use of the album, Project will make arrangements for regular record dealer distribution as well as its sale thru one of the existing record clubs.

Rady feels this package will remain as a definitive musical anthology of Americana. Current market trends, he said, point toward an ever increasing demand for folk flavored music.

Rady told Billboard that upon completion of the Life Magazine package, five other projects are currently in his hopper and that production will soon get under way on these.

Billboard July 27, 1959